



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 260

November 9, 2022

Board Members Present:

Larry Brown, Co-Chair

Gary Chandler, Co-Chair

Wade Larson, Representing Business

Todd Mitchell, Representing Labor

Kairie Pierce, Representing Labor

Cami Feek, Employment Security Department (ESD)

Rebecca Wallace for Chris Reykdal, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Paul Francis, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC)

Terry Redmond for Secretary Meneses, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

Chris Alejano, Representing Underserved Populations

Marie Davis for Lisa Brown, Department of Commerce

Mark Mattke, Spokane Workforce Council, Representing Local Government

Call to Order

Co-Chair Mr. Larry Brown called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on a virtual meeting using Zoom and welcomed the Board and audience members in-person at the DoubleTree by Hilton in SeaTac.

Consent Agenda

MOTION-2022-260-01: Mr. Todd Mitchell moved to approve the Consent Agenda that included approval of the Minutes from the September 21, 2022, Board Meeting. Mr. Wade Larson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION-2022-260-02: Mr. Mitchell moved to extend the four components of the COVID-19 Policy Waiver Extensions (WIN). Mr. Paul Francis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board discussed the timeline on the extensions and next steps.

Executive Director's Report

Workforce Board Executive Director, Ms. Eleni Papadakis, submitted her executive director's report in written form to the Board that included new agency hires, recent

conferences, and health workforce updates. The floor was opened for questions and comments. Co-Chair Mr. Gary Chandler opened the conversation with his thoughts on credentialing, the value of project-based learning, and a recent National Governors Association conference that he attended. The Board continued with a rich discussion regarding credentials. Mr. Francis expressed the State Board for Community and Technical College's (SBCTC's) interest in engaging in micro credentials and pathways. Ms. Kairie Pierce suggested to the Board to be cautious in making sure that "micro" does not mean less-than.

Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP) Planning

Ms. Papadakis provided a high-level overview of the strategic planning effort and its importance. Workforce Board Research Director, Dave Wallace, provided a presentation on what the most recent data is showing about the workforce system. Particular attention was paid to how barrier populations are faring. Workforce Board staff member Elizabeth Court reviewed feedback from partners on the current plan and outlined the proposed outreach plan.

The Board heard from a panel of system partners, Anne Goranson (Employment Security Department), Will Durden (State Board for Community and Technical Colleges), and Ronnie-Sue Johnson (DSHS Economic Services Administration) regarding the adoption of new technology in the workforce system and what was learned during the pandemic.

The Board discussed interest in engaging on the benefits "cliff effect," when additional wages don't make up for the loss of public benefits, putting people in a worse financial situation. The Board also addressed the need to reengage youth. They discussed the need to understand national trends broken down by demographics, access to training on cultural competency, and working across generations and what that means for the workforce system. They also discussed the need to move forward quickly with training that reflects changing labor market demand, and credential portability. There was interest in collecting data on entrepreneurship, specifically minority-owned business to help understand the impact of the post-pandemic work environment.

The Board agreed they would like to see an analysis of the progress or lack of progress made on achieving the goals stated in the last state strategic workforce (TAP) plan. Mr. Mark Mattke shared the perspective from the Workforce Development Councils with a strong focus on shared outcomes and how to incorporate that into the plan. The Board discussed how to best ensure we are leveraging the system and talking to communities as a whole and not siloing stakeholder groups by interest area. They also discussed their own engagement in the planning process and their desire to see planning progress reports front and center at every board meeting.

Ms. Papadakis emphasized to the Board that the plan is most effective when the Board determines what actionable items policymakers should adopt and agencies use it as a lens or as guiding principles. Through this process, Board members should be asking themselves, "How do we elevate this plan so that it's actionable?"

Ms. Papadakis suggested that based on the community input received through the process, the Board will begin to understand what stakeholders are experiencing now. Staff will continue to develop presentations for future board meetings that highlight aspects of the economic environment.

MOTION-2022-260-06: Ms. Pierce made a motion to approve the state workforce plan timeline as drafted, with an emphasis on evaluation of the previous plan goals to be delivered at the next Board meeting. Ms. Marie Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Legislative Endorsement (Action)

Workforce Board Deputy Executive Director, Nova Gattman, reported on the results of the Board Endorsement Committee, which reviewed budget requests from partner organizations for potential endorsement as official legislative agenda items for the Board. The Endorsement Committee unanimously recommended inclusion of the WIT Replacement and AmeriCorps Stipend, both presented by Mr. Gary Kamimura of the state's Employment Security Department. Mr. Kamimura provided additional information and context on both items.

Mr. Mattke suggested a process where the Board considers prioritizing the list of items next year.

MOTION-2022-260-06 MOTION: Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the two legislative endorsements. Mr. Larson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.